

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The mold according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each guide means (14) is defined by a radially internal end chamfer of the respective axial column (13).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The mold according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each axial column (13) carries a stop means (15) for limiting said axial displacement of the upper mold portion (20) and defining the closed mold position thereof.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The mold according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each stop means (15) is defined by a respective locking means (15).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The mold according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the upper mold portion (20) is provided with a lock receiving means (25) to be engaged by the locking means (15) of a respective axial column (13) when the upper mold portion (20) is axially slid in the guide means (14) until reaching the closed mold position and slightly rotated around its axis.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The mold according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each locking means (15) comprises a pin radially projecting from the respective axial column (13), each lock receiving means (25) being defined by a groove provided in the external surface of the upper mold portion (20) and presenting an axial extension that receives the locking means (15) upon the axial sliding of the upper mold portion (20) in the guide means (14), and a short circumferential extension that receives the locking means (15) upon the slight rotation of the upper mold portion (20).

